

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Summary Minutes

February 15, 2005

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Steve Foley (WDFW), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Dennis Moore (MIT), Frank Urabeck (TU), Bill McKay (PSA), Bill Robinson (Public), and Michael Kern (LLK)

Other Participants: Brodie Antipa, Chuck Johnson, Dave Seiler, Joan Thomas (WDFW), and Judith Noble and Paul Faulds (SPU)

Public: *None*

Call to order

Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:17 AM

Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the agenda. Bruce noted that Judith Noble would brief members on the SEIS at noon.

Meeting minutes review

The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from January 20, 2005.

Interim mitigation program for chinook, coho, steelhead

Prioritize proposals for projects in 2005 and make funding recommendations

Bruce noted the primary work for this meeting was to prioritize projects and make a funding recommendation to the LMA Parties. He felt the prioritization process should include a detailed discussion of each project after which the AFC could identify their top priorities. Bruce asked if members had any objections to the process he outlined, hearing none the project review went forward. Members reviewed the following proposals for: recovery planning of steelhead, trout habitat use in the Cedar River, O.mykiss genetic study, trapping adult steelhead at the Landsburg Fish Ladder, peer review of O.mykiss genetic study, adult coho surveys, predation work in Lake Washington, and chinook genetics.

O.mykiss genetic study

Members, by consensus, identified the O.mkiss genetic study as the top priority leaving \$113,000 in funding for other projects. Bruce asked members to identify the next 2 priorities.

Michael K. said it sounded like there was a lot of support for the predation study or some part of it. Frank U. said two-year predation work in Lake Washington should be the number 2 priority at a cost of \$80,075 in 2005 and 83,799 in 2006. Bruce asked if there were any objections to approving this as the second priority – there were no objection. The remaining funds for 2005 in the interim program totaled \$33,000.

Sockeye hatchery

SEIS schedule

Bruce noted that Judith Noble arrived to discuss the hatchery draft SEIS. He asked her to brief the members on the project. Judith N. stated the draft SEIS was ready for release. She stated she was charged by SPU to make a credible process for the SEIS and felt the process was successful.

Continued discussion on the Interim Program for Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead

Bill asked for a review of funding that was being dedicated to projects in 2005 and the balance that would be considered for other projects. Bruce noted that the O.mykiss genetics study and the predation study would receive the bulk of the funding and the remaining funds, approximately \$33,000 would be reserved for consideration of a peer review of the O.mykiss genetics study, trapping steelhead at Landsburg, and a feasibility study on predator abundance in Lake Washington. Bruce asked if the AFC had any objections. There were no objections.

Sockeye monitoring and research

Zooplankton work in Lake Washington

Bruce reported that Dan Schindler was still using some foundation funding for zooplankton work. In 2005 the HCP provided \$8,500 for zooplankton monitoring. Dan felt the supplemental funds from the HCP would be sufficient to get data on zooplankton abundance and species during the spring period.

WDFW 2004 sockeye smolt analysis

Bruce complimented WDFW on the smolt analysis that was done in 2004. Over 1,000 otoliths were collected from smolts in Lake Union and processed. Steve Schroder provided a report highlighting the findings. Dave S. said they intend to repeat the work in 2005. Bruce asked if they would publish the work. Dave S. replied they would at some point, but that it was difficult to get time to publish. Bruce felt that the committee should spend some time going over the findings at a later meeting.

Fish Health

Bruce noted that Joan Thomas (WDFW) was putting together a proposal for fish health and Steve Schroder wanted to discuss the adult sockeye recovery effort.

Sockeye hatchery

Status report on Cedar River Hatchery – Brodie Antipa

Brodie A. noted the hatchery had released approximately 30% of the hatchery fry. Joan T. and Brodie A. noted WDFW found a sockeye carcass in the spring water supply to the hatchery this year. They reported no unusual mortality so far. Bruce commented that the

hatchery was very lucky to have escaped without an IHN outbreak. He noted the carcass in the spring water reinforces the concern over risk of IHN contamination of the water supply. This concern has driven the submittal of permit applications to King county to allow improvements to the water system of the existing hatchery. Brodie A. added they also found sockeye carcasses along the shoreline, which borders the springs water.

Fish Passage at Landsburg

Fish passage update

Paul reported the fish ladder at Landsburg was now in passive mode and fish could move unimpeded upriver through the ladder. He noted the final count for coho during the 2005-06 migration was 99.

Public comment

There were no public comments

Information and discussion Items

Cedar River fish counts

Steve F. provided some analysis of Chinook data from the Cedar River in 2004. The preliminary conclusion indicated 4-5 recruits per spawner for 4 year olds from 2000. He noted that in 2000 there were 53 redds in the Cedar River.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM